cember, 1998. Follow up action has now to be taken for the signing of the agreement by the two Governments. The bus service is expected to comence by the middle of January, 1999.

The safety and security of the bus and passengers will be ensured by the respective governments in their territories.

There is no proposal to introduce a bus service between Hyderabad and towns in Pakistan.

Impact of withdrawal of Sanctions by USA

1320. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the recent withdrawal of sanctions of India by United States in various sectors; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the approach of United State is discriminatory per se and also its consequences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) In partial exercise of waiver authority given by the US Congress, US Government on November 7, 1998 announced lifting of some economic restrictive measures against India. These relate to programmes of three US institutions namely the EXIM Bank, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the Trade Development Authority (TDA) in addition to lifting restrictions on Commercial US Banks and International Military Education & Training Programme (IMET).

The removal of these restrictions will improve the climate for mutually beneficial business interactions and improve the prospects of Indian and US companies making use of these programmes to raise financing from the US for industrial and infrastructural projects.

(b) While announcing lifting of the same restrictions for Pakistan, the US also announced lifting of restrictions on lending from the multilateral development Banks in the context of an IMF led emergency package for the Pakistan economy.

India has supported economic assistance to Pakistan and has consistently voted in the World Bank and other multilateral forums in favour of such assistance. India, however, does not agree with selective and discriminatory approach in this regard. India has always maintained that unilateral and restrictive economic meausres are unjustified and counter productive and should be lifted.

Persons of Indian Origin in Various Countries

1321. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of persons of Indian-origin living in various countries, country-wise and profession-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): A statement detailing the approximate number of Indian citizens living in various countries is placed on the Table of the House (*See* below). No record has so far been maintained of the profession-wise break-up of Indians living abroad. Computer software has however very recently been developed which would enable the Indian diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad in future to collect and maintain a comprehensive database, including information on profession, of both Indian citizens resident abroad as well of those foreign nationals of Indian origin wishing to register their interest with Government.

Approximate Numbers of Indian Nationals Settled Abroad

Country	Number of Indians
Afghanistan	0
Albania	5
Algeria	80
Angola	70
Anguilla	4
Antigua	40
Argentina	800
Armenia	150
Aruba	50
Australia	28564
Austria	11000
Azerbaijan	120
Bahamas	0
Bahrain	100000
Bangladesh	555
Barbados	69
Barbuda	0
Belarus	94
Belgium	5000
Belize	340
Benin	400
Bhutan	20000
Bolivia	50
Bosnia Herzegovina	1
Botswana	3000
Brazil	1500
Brunei Darussalam	9208
Bulgaria	35
Burkina Faso	15
Burundi	700
Cambodia	183
Cameroon	250
Canada	420000
Cape Verde Islands	0
Cayman Islands	50
Central African Republic	10
Chad	0
Chile	500
China (PRC) (including Hong Kong)	21500
China (Republic of)	0
Colombia	59
Comoros	250
Congo	15
Cook Island	0
Costa Rica	7
Croatia	4
Cuba	15
Cyprus	350
Czech Republic	56
Denmark	500
Djibouti	350
Dominica	18
Dominican Republic	0
Ecuador	6
Egypt	1350
El Salvador	6
Equatorial Guinea	6
Eritrea	10
Estonia	12
Ethiopia	12
Finland	600
France	10000
Gabon	5
Gambia	80
Georgia	60
Germany	34020
Ghana	1500
Greece	10340
Grenada	56
Guatemala	8
Guinea	60
Guinea Bissau	5
Guyana	240
Haiti	0
Holy See	0
Honduras	5
Hungary	180
Iceland	18
Indonesia	5400
Iran	1400
Iraq	80
Ireland	1500
Israel	500
Italy	15052
Ivory Coast	125
Jamaica	1200
Japan	5508
Jordan	900
Kazakhstan	745
Kenya	8000

Country	Number of Indians
Kiribati	0
Korea (DPR)	1
Korea (Republic of)	400
Kuwait	195000
Kyrghyzstan	175
Laos	183
Latvia	75
Lebanon	11000
Lesotho	250
Liberia	300
Libya	12000
Liechtenstein	0
Lithuania	0
Luxembourg	179
Macau	0
Macedonia	0
Madagascar	3000
Malaysia	30000
Maldives	1746
Mali	13
Malta	150
Malawi	300
Mauritania	0
Mauritius	360
Mexico	250
Micronesia	0
Moldova	0
Mongolia	40
Montserrat	15
Morocco	340
Mozambique	500
Myanmar	2175
Namibia	52
Nauru	100
Nepal	1000000
Netherlands	5000
Netherlands Antilles	2000
Nevis	0
New Zealand	750
Nicaragua	4
Niger	13
Nigeria	22000
Norway	2100
Oman	410825
Pakistan	0
Palau	0
Panama	3828
Papua New Guinea	0
Paraguay	30
Palestine	0
Peru	200
Philippines	13000
Poland	600
Portugal	2000
Qatar	80000
Reunion Island	173
Romania	220
Russian Federation	12000
Rwanda	300
San Marino	0
Sao-Tome & Principle	0
Saudi Arabia	1300000
Senegal	40
Seychelles	500
Sierra Leone	430
Singapore	28000
Slovak	50
Slovenia	10
Solomon Islands	0
Saint Kitts	16
South Africa	3000
Spain	14000
Sri Lanka	131220
St. Lucia	75
St. Vincent & Grenadines	20
Sudan	1150
Surinam	150
Swaziland	200
Sweden	1535
Switzerland	4169
Syria	500
Tajikistan	143
Tanzania	3500
Thailand	15000
Togo	300
Tonga	50
Trinidad & Tobago	300
Tunisia	45
Turkmenistan	270
Turks & Caicos Islands	20
Tuvalu	0
Uganda	2000
Ukraine	2100

Country	Number of Indians
United Arab Emirates	1200000
United Kingdom	130000
United States of America	1300000
Uruguay	10
Uzbekistan	360
Vanuatu	0
Venezuela	400
Vietnam	350
Western Samoa	10
Yemen	3500
Yugoslavia	16
Zaire	650
Zambia	60000
Zimbabwe	15500
TOTAL	6758192

Alternate Route for Kailash Mansarovar

1322. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for shifting the existing route to reach the Kailash Mansarovar through Lion Chowk in Ladakh;

(b) whether this alternate route is to cross the Chinese boundary;

(c) how far this route crosses the Chinese boundary; and

(d) whether Government have approached the Chinese Government about the use of that route and the reaction of Chinese Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Since 1993, the Government have taken up proposals for an additional/alternate route with the Chinese side. The Demchok (Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir) route is one of them. This route was proposed taking in account the existing logistical facilities which extend almost upto the border.

The Chinese Government's response has been that our proposals for alternative routes are under consideration in consultation with the local authorities in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).

They have cited difficulties in opening new routes on the grounds that it would involve travel over much longer distances over difficult terrain with poor road conditions, and lack of proper infrastructure for accommodation and communications. They have also expressed the view that development of infrastructure in these remote areas would not be an easy task and building facilities for alternative routes could take a long time.

Government of India, for its part, are willing to consider new routes taking into account the availability of infrastructure and logistical facilities and other relevant factors. Our efforts to open a new route are continuing.

Development of Nuclear Warheads for Gauri Missiles

1323. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the U.S. Intelligence reports quoted in the Washington Times some time in early September, 1998 regarding Pakistan developing nuclear warheads for its Gauri missiles with the technical help of China and North Korea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard thereto and how does Government think that such activities of Pakistan would affect the ongoing talks between the two countries on various issues to normalise relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Government have seen the report in the Washington